

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 1           1.     A method for managing data including the steps of:
  - 2               (a)     creating a questionnaire comprising a series of questions;
  - 3               (b)     tokenizing said questionnaire; thereby producing a plurality of tokens
  - 4               representing said questionnaire;
  - 5               (c)     transmitting said plurality of tokens to a remote computing device;
  - 6               (d)     executing at least a portion of said plurality of tokens representing said
  - 7               questionnaire at said remote computing device to collect a response from a
  - 8               user;
  - 9               (e)     transmitting at least a portion of said response from the user to a server via
  - 10              a network; and
  - 11             (f)     storing said response at said server.
  
- 1           2.     The method for managing data of claim 1 further comprising the step of:
  - 2               (g)     translating said response to a format recognizable by a particular computer
  - 3               program; and
  - 4               (h)     accessing the translated response from a computer executing said particular
  - 5               computer program.

1           3.     The method for managing data of claim 1 wherein step (a) includes the substeps of:  
2                 (a) creating a questionnaire by:  
3                     (i)     entering a series of questions into a questionnaire design computer  
4                                 program;  
5                     (ii)    identifying within said questionnaire design computer program the  
6                                 type of response allowed for each question of said series of questions;  
7                                 and  
8                     (iii)   identifying within said questionnaire design computer program a  
9                                 branching path in said questionnaire for each possible response to  
10                                each question of said series of questions.

1           4.     The method for managing data of claim 1 wherein step (b) includes the substeps of:  
2                 (b)     tokenizing said questionnaire thereby producing a plurality of tokens  
3                         representing said questionnaire by:  
4                     (i)     assigning at least one token to each question of said series of  
5                                 questions;  
6                     (ii)    assigning at least one token to each response called for in said series  
7                                 of questions to identify the type of response required; and  
8                     (iii)   assigning at least one token to each branch in said questionnaire to  
9                                 identify the required program control associated with said branch.

1           5.     The method of data management of claim 1 wherein the transmission of said tokens  
2                 in step (c) occurs via the network of step (e).

1           6.     A method for modifying a questionnaire used in data management according to the  
2                 method of claim 1 including the steps of:

- 3                 (a)     making at least one incremental change to a portion of the questionnaire;  
4                 (b)     tokenizing said at least one incremental change to said questionnaire;  
5                 (c)     transmitting at least a portion of said tokens resulting from step (b) to a  
6                         remote computing device, said transmitted tokens comprising less than the  
7                         entire tokenized questionnaire;  
8                 (d)     incorporating said transmitted tokens into said questionnaire at said remote  
9                         computing device.

1           7.     A method for collecting survey data from a user comprising:

- 2                 (a)     designing a questionnaire having branching logic on a first computer  
3                         platform;  
4                 (b)     automatically transferring said designed questionnaire to at least one loosely  
5                         networked computer;  
6                 (c)     executing said transferred questionnaire on said loosely networked computer,  
7                         thereby collecting responses from the user;

- 8 (d) automatically transferring via the loose network any responses so collected  
9 to a central computer; and,  
10 (e) making available on the Web any responses transferred to said central  
11 computer in step (d).

- 1 8. The method for collecting survey data according to claim 7 further comprising:  
2 (a) assessing a charge for each transferred response received by said central  
3 computer.

- 1 9. A method for managing data transfers between computers including the steps of:  
2 (a) creating a questionnaire at a first site in a first computer located at a second  
3 site, said first site and said second site being connected by a network;  
4 (b) transmitting said question to a remote computer via said network, said remote  
5 computer running an OIS;  
6 (c) modifying said questionnaire with incremental changes at a third site in said  
7 first computer located at said second site; and  
8 (d) modifying said questionnaire in said remote computer with said incremental  
9 changes.

- 1 10. The method for managing data transfers between computers according to claim 9  
2 wherein said first site and said third site are the same.

1            11.    The method for managing data transfers between computers according to claim 9  
2            wherein said third site is at said remote computer.